



Markham Skating Club

Code of Conduct

April 2025

Purpose

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to outline the expectations of Markham Skating Club with regards to providing a safe sport environment where all individuals and groups are treated with respect and dignity, valuing diversity, equity, and inclusion. All individuals will be aware that Markham Skating Club is instituting a zero-tolerance policy for inappropriate behaviour, consistent with our Vision, Mission, and Values.

Application

This Code of Conduct applies to all Participants, which include, but are not limited to, all Markham Skating Club registrants, participants, members of the Board of Directors; committee members; staff; coaches; officials; volunteers; athletes; parents and guardians of athletes; and all consultants and contractors (Participants).

The application of this Code of Conduct extends to all Markham Skating Club business and activities including, but not limited to, office environments, meetings, competitions, practices, training camps, tryouts, and travel as a member of a Markham Skating Club team or on related business.

This Code of Conduct may also apply to activities outside of those listed if conduct is deemed detrimental to the image or reputation of Markham Skating Club and/or its Participants. This Code of Conduct complements the Social Media Policy, and both documents must be applied in the appropriate context.

Responsibilities

It is expected that all Participants have a responsibility to:

- a. demonstrate respect to all individuals and groups, which includes:
 - i. acting, when appropriate, to prevent or correct practices that are unjustly discriminatory;
 - ii. demonstrating the spirit of sportsmanship, sport leadership and ethical conduct;
 - iii. avoiding public criticism of any Stakeholder and, when necessary, use appropriate channels to communicate concerns;
- b. ensure the adherence to the rules of the sport;

- c. refrain from any behaviour that constitutes harassment, where harassment is defined as negative comment or conduct directed towards an individual or group which is offensive, abusive, racist, sexist, degrading or malicious as defined in the Skate Ontario Harassment Policy.
- d. respect the property of others and not willfully cause damage;
- e. adhere to all federal, provincial, municipal and any applicable host country, laws;
- f. comply at all times with club by-laws, policies, procedures, rules and regulations as adopted and amended from time to time; and
- g. promote the sport of figure skating in a positive and constructive manner.
- h. Adhere to Skate Canada's National [Safe Sport program and Code of Ethics](#)

Participant-Specific Responsibilities

In addition to the responsibilities set out in Responsibilities section of this Code of Conduct, the below Participant groups are obligated to:

Board of Directors and Committee Members

- Be familiar with the Vision, Mission, Values, and by-laws of Markham Skating Club.
- Comply with relevant legislation and government policies.
- Avoid conflicts of interest and place the interests of Markham Skating Club ahead of personal interests.
- Respect and support all Board/committee decisions, maintain confidentiality, and refrain from unauthorized public representations.
- Ensure that all athletes and coaches participating in their programs and sanctioned events are registered.
- Develop a dispute resolution process to handle general disputes and complaints concerning registrants and coaches within the club/school.

Coaches

- Conduct oneself in accordance with the policies and standards of Skate Ontario and Skate Canada and the International Skating Union.
- Maintain membership with Skate Ontario & Skate Canada and adhere to event accreditation and security protocols.
- Accurately represent technical, educational, and professional credentials.
- Negotiate contracts in good faith, invoice only for services rendered, and respect existing coaching relationships.
- Communicate regularly with skaters and parents/guardians about progress and goals.
- Comply with the Concussion Code of Conduct.

Athletes

- Report any injuries or medical conditions that affect performance.
- Participate with appropriate clothing and equipment, and represent oneself accurately in competition entries.
- Abide by additional policies imposed by coaches or team managers and maintain confidentiality about fellow athletes.
- Comply with the Concussion Code of Conduct.

On-Ice Conduct

- i. Food, drink and gum are not permitted on the ice. Water bottles are acceptable, but must be left at the boards. Glass bottles are prohibited.
- ii. Skaters are expected to be skating at all times when on the ice. They are expected to get up promptly after a fall in order to keep pathways clear for other skaters.
- iii. Skaters must look in the direction of travel when skating backward.
- iv. Pay attention to the position of other skaters and coaches at all times. Be especially alert for reverse jumpers, or coaches teaching with their back to you, as they may not be able to see you.
- v. When practicing routines, skaters must learn to manoeuvre around other skaters and coaches, and still complete jumps, spins and footwork successfully.
- vi. The ice surface should be used for practice and not chatting. Working in small groups with coach approval is acceptable.
- vii. Foul language, yelling, abusive or aggressive behaviour, including kicking or picking holes in the ice and intentional making of "snow" is prohibited.
- viii. Pushing, tripping, horseplay, tag, racing or intentional interference with other skaters is not permitted on the ice or elsewhere in the arena.
- ix. When standing near the boards (e.g. while taking direction from a coach), do not enter the flow of skaters without checking to make sure you're not going to cut someone off.
- x. Proper attire must be worn on all sessions (tights and skating dress/skirt, leggings, athletic non-baggy pants). Hoodies are not appropriate as they can affect balance. Long hair should always be tied back.
- xi. Skaters should not leave the ice during a session unless absolutely necessary. It is good practice to obtain a coach's permission before leaving the ice.
- xii. Skaters must clear the ice promptly at the end of the session.
- xiii. For insurance reasons, only registered Skate Canada members are permitted on the ice, except in a medical emergency or during certain pre-arranged Club Events (e.g. Family Skate day).

On-Ice Right of Way Rules

First priority: Skater skating a program.

Second priority: Skater in a lesson with a coach (group or private lesson).

Third priority: Skater in a spin or jump entrance.

Regardless of priority – safety must always come first. Use common sense, and regardless of who has right of way, both skaters must stop before a collision. Skaters must be aware of others and do their best to avoid collisions, even if their own music is playing. Calling out "Excuse me!" or "Heads up!" will alert other skaters/coaches to get out of the way.

When a dance is played, the skater(s) with the coach who requested the dance music will skate first. Solo or dance music will be played in the order of coach request followed by skater request. The number of times per session a skater requests music may be limited at the coaches' discretion.

Spin in the center. Jump at the corners. Do not linger in these areas! It is important to always be aware, cautious and considerate of everyone on the ice. Within each session, there are many different levels of skaters sharing the same ice.

Officials

- Exhibit integrity, honesty, objectivity, reliability, and cooperation.
- Adhere to officiating standards and reporting requirements.
- Maintain technical knowledge, assess performances impartially, and declare conflicts of interest when applicable.
- Refrain from public criticism of other officials or skaters.

Parents/Guardians and Spectators

- Be respectful and supportive of all athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and staff.
- Accept and respect officials' decisions and encourage athletes to do the same.
- Encourage athletes to follow rules, respect others, and resolve conflicts appropriately.
- Maintain a supportive atmosphere for all Participants.
- May watch from the stands or seating area and are requested to not stand by the boards.
- Refrain from conversing with or offering direction to skaters on the ice. If a skater needs more direction, the coach should be consulted after the session and a plan developed to help the skater become more independent.
- Do not leave young skaters or other children unattended while at the arena. Parents/guardians of PreCanSkate/CanSkate participants must remain in attendance during the entire session.
- Comply with Concussion Code of Conduct.

Disciplinary Actions

Violations of this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary actions as described below and in the Dispute Resolution policy.

If a skater violates the Code of Conduct, disciplinary action will be:

1st offence: Verbal warning by the skater's coach or the MSC Board of Directors. The skater's parent/guardian will be informed of the warning if the skater is under the age of majority.

2nd offence: Letter from MSC President to the skater or the skater's parent/guardian if the skater is under the age of majority.

3rd offence: Suspension from all Club programs without compensation for 1 week. This includes all competitions and tests.

4th offence: Skater will be asked to leave the Club.

If the behaviour of a skater is considered to be in serious breach of conduct, said skater may be immediately suspended at the Board's discretion. In cases of suspension or expulsion, no refund of any kind will be granted.

Reporting and Resolution

Individuals who observe or experience behaviour that violates this Code of Conduct are encouraged to report the incident to a coach, volunteer, or club official. All reports will be taken seriously and handled promptly and confidentially. Retaliation against individuals who report violations in good faith is strictly prohibited.

Money and valuables should not be left unattended. Markham Skating Club and the Markham Village Community Centre can bear no responsibility for lost or stolen items.

The gates around the ice must remain closed while sessions are in progress.